

Date: 22/09/2025
Our ref: 01/FOI/25/015488/C

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/25/015488/C

I write in connection with your request for information dated 15/09/2025, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

***I am writing to request information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.
My query relates to instances where a perpetrator was charged with stalking in the last three years, (from beginning of 2022 to present day).***

Please check your records for those charged with a stalking offense (including but not limited to: "Stalking without fear / alarm/ distress" or "Stalking involving fear of violence" or "Stalking involving serious alarm/ distress").

In those records please do a search for the key term "hired a private investigator" / "hired private investigators"/ "hiring a private investigator" AND "hired a private detective"/ "hired private detectives"/ "hiring a private detective"

I would like to know:

- 1 - Broken down by year, if possible, how many times someone charged with a stalking offence, had hired a private investigator or private detective***
- 2 - If possible, a list of the names of those private investigators/ agencies***
- 3 - How often a private investigator has been charged with stalking or harassment***

If this request exceeds the time limit imposed by the FOI Act, then please focus down to only question 1 and to only the last year and a half (e.g. from the beginning of 2024).

Result of Searches

GMP cannot confirm if it holds all the information that you have requested without conducting a thorough search on your behalf

GMP can provide the number of suspects charged under the HO Classification '8Q – Stalking', however, to understand if any of these results are connected to a private investigator, then a manual review would have to be undertaken. This information does not have a searchable field for us to view this part of the request. We have carried out a search using the following terms –

- Hired a private investigator
- Hired private investigators
- Hiring a private investigator
- Hired a private detective
- Hired private detectives
- Hiring a private detective

Zero results were returned that contained these keyword phrases, so to know if any other information can be located to determine if a private investigator was linked would result in the manual trawl of all records during your requested time frame. There have been nearly 2,000 results located and to review each one would take this request over the 18hrs permitted to respond.

Therefore, as per section 12(2) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, the cost of searching for the information is above the amount to which we are legally required to respond i.e. the cost of locating the information exceeds the 'appropriate level' as stated in the Freedom of Information (Fees and Appropriate Limit) Regulations 2004.

In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000, this letter acts as a Refusal Notice.

GMP is obligated, pursuant to section 16(1) of the Act to provide you with advice and assistance on refining your request to bring compliance within the fees limit. In order for the force to attempt to keep this within the fees limit, the information you are requesting will need revising with a reduced time frame. However, the resulting response cannot be guaranteed at this point as it will be dependent upon the number of records that fall within the scope of any new request, as they would still have to be manually assessed.

Should you wish to refine and resubmit your request in line with the advice above please respond to freedomofinformation@gmp.police.uk.

Please see results for HO Classification '8Q – Stalking' below.

Caveats:

In July 2019, GMP implemented one of the largest IT infrastructure changes in UK policing. The systems are in continual development and the data provided for this request is what the systems currently hold.

- This data contains crimes with a Crime Person Latest Outcome date between '01 January 2022' and '14 September 2025' where the offence is categorised as HO Classification '8Q – Stalking' and a Latest GMP Outcome Code '1A – Charged' has been applied, excluding cancelled crimes and crimes classified as fraud. Further information about cancelled crimes can be obtained from the Home Office Counting Rules. Details regarding fraud crime can be obtained by contacting the NFIB.
- There may be more than one suspect attached to a crime. For this reason, the numbers in the response may not be the same as the number of crimes.
- Suspects may be attached to more than one crime during this time period, which means that the data cannot be used to identify the number of unique suspects.
- The below results would be subject to a manual review to fully answer your request (see exemption above).

Year	2022	2023	2024	2025
Count of Charges	407	586	557	418